

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

July 7 - 13, 2013 [Issue 9]

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Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Elisabeth Nickles

Message from Monomoy

The summer heat is here! With the warm weather come the tourists as well. It was very busy out on the island this week. The refuge has had some interesting things wash ashore this week besides humans. Staff found a dead leatherback sea turtle, a dead manta ray, and a Portuguese man of war all washed up on the west side of South Monomoy Island. If you plan on visiting the refuge islands we ask that you please be mindful and respectful of posted areas as many of our breeding birds have cryptic colored chicks that can be very hard to see. Rain, thick fog, and high temperatures hindered field activity for two days though on most days some work was accomplished and camp was not completely closed.

2013 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minimoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

Bird Sightings

American crow	Red-winged blackbird
Double-crested cormorant	Black-bellied plover
Dunlin	Willet
Ruddy turnstone	Laughing gull
Great black-backed gull	Herring gull
Northern harrier	Snowy owl
Short-billed dowitcher	Black-crowned night-heron
Great egret	Snowy egret
Thick-billed murre	Turkey vulture
Osprey	Black skimmer
Yellow-crowned night-heron	Glossy ibis
Parasitic Jaeger	Redknots
American Bittern	

Bird Activity

Piping Plovers (PIPL)

Currently there are 19 active nests/broods (7 actual nests). There are 12 active broods with 22 chicks seen and 5 fledged chicks on South Monomoy Island. A total of 4 nests hatched this week. 4 nests were lost this week, 3 to coyote predation and 1 unknown. Plover monitors found a nest that had been stepped on by a human between noon on 6 July and noon on 8 July. Two sets of footprints entered the rope-off area, headed directly to the plover nest, and crushed it. The area was posted as closed with closed area signs. Two of the eggs remained at the nest bowl and were crushed, one additional egg was missing. The events were reported to Refuge law enforcement. There was one additional plover nest and many least terns nests also present within this closure but none of them were impacted during this event. One predator enclosure was erected on 9 July around a nest east and south of the Lighthouse. The North Monomoy Island PIPL brood was not seen during the last check of the island.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

On 8 July staff conducted nest checks on North Monomoy Island and were only able to locate 4 chicks two of these chicks have reached fledged status. On South Monomoy Island 7 chicks have fledged and 1 chick is close to fledging. On 7 July, 4 chicks were seen on Minimoy and 3 of these chicks are close to fledging. Many AMOY chicks are getting closer to fledging and are becoming elusive. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Common Terns (COTE)

To date all 28 productivity plots have chicks with most reaching 15-23 day status. This will be the last week that all 28 plots are active. We will remove plots once all nests have hatched and most of the chicks in the plot have surpassed 23 days. Klepto-parasitism and night stints are being conducted as staff time allows. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Roseate Terns (ROST)

The ROST B-Census was conducted this week and no additional late nesting pairs were located. Currently 12 ROST chicks have hatched, 6 of these have fledged, 3 remain unfledged, and 3 have not been found recently. ROST chicks become very difficult to locate as they grow older and are more mobile. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Black Skimmers (BLSK)

BLSK pair has been observed on the flats on the north tip of South Monomoy Island. BLSK have not been confirmed to be nesting on the refuge.

Least Terns (LETE)

Many LETE chicks have begun to fledge and can be seen flying around the main nesting areas. Productivity for LETE seems to be qualitatively good this year. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Nano Tag Pilot Study

Now that all of the tags have been placed on birds, data collection is in full swing. Observations of tagged birds will be made this week to ground-truth data that is being collected by the automated telemetry stations. Soon the tagged birds will be moving to staging areas and boat surveys will be conducted to detect birds using areas away from the nesting colony.

JULY 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JULY 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		